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Roberta A. Winzeler

Roberta A. Winzeler
(signature)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Hodges) Group Art Unit: 3673
)
Filed: 07/15/2003) Examiner: Pickard
)
Serial No.: 10/619,773) Attorney Docket: 1-17673
)
Titled: GASKET HAVING AN INNER)
EDGE WITH COINED ANGLES)
AND METHOD OF)
MANUFACTURE)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANT'S RESPONSE TO

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Honorable Sir:

I. Introduction

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated January 25, 2007, it is respectfully requested that Section V of Appellant's Appeal Brief filed November 1, 2006 and titled "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter" be replaced as follows.

II. Section V – Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The presently claimed invention is directed to a gasket for an internal combustion engine having an inner edge with coined angles to increase the surface area of the gasket that is exposed to an elastomeric material. The following is a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, as required by 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(v). However, in general, the following explanation is not intended to be used to construe the claims, which are believed to speak for themselves, nor do Appellants intend the following explanation to modify or add any claim elements, or to constitute a disclaimer of any equivalents to which the claims would otherwise be entitled, nor is any discussion of certain preferred embodiments herein intended to disclaim other possible embodiments. References herein to the Specification are intended to be exemplary and not limiting.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a gasket (10, Fig. 1) that comprises a base sheet (16, Fig. 2) of substantially contiguous metal material having at least one aperture (12, Fig. 1) bounded by an edge (22, Fig. 2) of the base sheet. Specification, page 3, paragraph [0012]. One or more coined angles (24, Fig. 2) are formed at the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 3, paragraph [0013]. An elastomeric material (18, Fig. 2) is disposed on the one or more coined angles and the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0014]. The coined angles increase a surface area of the base sheet that is exposed to the elastomeric material, thereby increasing bonding strength between the base sheet and the elastomeric material. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0015]. This is in contrast to conventional gaskets which only have elastomeric material to be disposed at the edge of the gasket, thereby producing a weak bond between the elastomeric material and the base sheet of the gasket. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0015].

Further, one or more of the coined angles also includes a textured surface to further increase the bonding strength between the base sheet and the elastomeric material. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0016].

B. Claim 10

Claim 10 recites a method for manufacturing a gasket (10, Fig. 1). The method comprises forming one or more coined angles (24, Fig. 2) at an edge (22, Fig. 2) of a base sheet (16, Fig. 2) of substantially contiguous metal material. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0017]. A texture (26, Fig. 2) is then applied to an outer surface of one or more of the coined angles. Specification, page 5, paragraph [0017]. An elastomeric material (18, Fig. 2) is disposed on the one or more coined angles and on the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 5, paragraph [0017]. This method increases the surface area of the base sheet that is exposed to the elastomeric material, thereby increasing the bonding strength between the base sheet and the elastomeric material. Specification, page 5, paragraph [0017].

C. Claim 12

Claim 12 recites a gasket (10, Fig. 1) that comprises a base sheet (16, Fig. 2) of substantially contiguous metal material having at least one aperture (12, Fig. 1) bounded by an edge (22, Fig. 2) of the base sheet. Specification, page 3, paragraph [0012]. One or more coined angles (24, Fig. 2) are formed at the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 3, paragraph [0013]. The coined angles are defined by a gradual reduction in thickness toward the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0016]. An elastomeric material (18, Fig. 2) is disposed on the one or more coined angles and the edge of the base sheet. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0014]. The coined angles increase a surface area of the base sheet that is exposed to the elastomeric material, thereby increasing bonding strength between the base sheet and the

elastomeric material. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0015]. This is in contrast to conventional gaskets which only have elastomeric material disposed at the edge of the gasket, thereby producing a weak bond between the elastomeric material and the base sheet of the gasket. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0015].

Further, one or more of the coined angles also includes a textured surface (26, Fig. 2) to further increase the bonding strength between the base sheet and the elastomeric material. Specification, page 4, paragraph [0016].

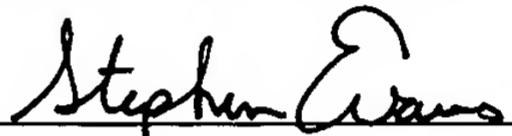
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III. Remarks

In view of the amendments to Section V of Appellant's Appeal Brief, it is believed Appellant's Appeal Brief is now in condition for substantive review by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and such review is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due with this response, however, if a fee is determined to be due, please charge USPTO Deposit Account No. 13-1816, from which the undersigned is permitted to draw.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen P. Evans
Registration No. 47,281

ATTORNEYS

Marshall & Melhorn, LLC
Four SeaGate, Eighth Floor
Toledo, OH 43604
ph: (419) 249-7100
fax: (419) 249-7151